Message Text

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DRAFTED BY EUR/EE:JMSEYMOUR:DJW APPROVED BY EUR/EE:NGANDREWS A/SY - MR. HICKEY (INFO) L/SFP - MR. FIELDS (INFO)

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, EAIR, YO, US

SUBJECT: HIJACKING TRIAL

REF: (A) STATE 75174, (B) STATE 64826

- 1. PROSECUTION RESTED ITS CASE APRIL 7, AND DEFENSE HAS BEGUN ITS PRESENTATION. BUSIC IS CURRENTLY ON THE STAND, AND THE REMAINING THREE DEFENDANTS WILL TESTIFY LATER IN THE WEEK. ASSISTANT U.S. ATTORNEY'S OFFICE TOLD US APRIL 13 IT EXPECTS TRIAL TO CONTINUE, WITH REBUTTALS AND CLOSING ARGUMENTS, FOR AT LEAST ANOTHER TWO WEEKS.
- 2. THE COURT HAS RESTRICTED THE DEFENSE ON THE POLITICAL STATEMENTS IT CAN ENTER. BUSIC, HOWEVER, HAS BEEN ALLOWED TO TESTIFY ABOUT HIS CHILDHOOD IN CROATIA, THAT LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PAGE 02 STATE 083100

HE FELT PERSECUTED THERE, AND HAD ACQUIRED A STRONG DESIRE TO PRESERVE CROATIAN CULTURE. HE WAS ALSO ALLOWED TO ENTER A STATEMENT THAT HE FEARED UDBA ASSASSINATION ATTEMPTS AFTER HIS EMIGRATION, BUT FURTHER DISCUSSION OF THIS WAS RULED OUT.

3. ALTHOUGH THE PROSECUTION WILL NOT SEEK THE DEATH

PENALTY (REF B), THE CHARGE INVOLVED CARRIES A MANDATORY

LIFE SENTENCE. MEDIA COVERAGE CONTINUES LIGHT, ACCORDING TO THE ASSISTANT U.S. ATTORNEY'S OFFICE. VANCE

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X

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